

GOD IS IN OUR PAIN
Ruth 1:1-18 (NIV)

❖ The Truth of Today:

- We all go through HARDSHIPS, but there is HOPE.

❖ When We are Going Through Hardships:

1. We will face PAIN.

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. ² The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

Ruth 1:1-2 (NIV)

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

Judges 21:25 (NIV)

"If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, ⁴ I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees their fruit."

Leviticus 26:3-4 (NIV)

Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

Ruth 1:3-5 (NIV)

- God always has a PURPOSE and PROMISES for our pain.

2. There is a NATURAL response to our pain.

When Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. ⁷ With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah. ⁸ Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the Lord show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. ⁹ May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud ¹⁰ and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people."

Ruth 1:6-10 (NIV)

Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the Lord show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband..."

Ruth 1:8-9 (NIV)

...Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud¹⁰ and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people."¹¹ But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands?¹² Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons—¹³ would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord's hand has turned against me!"¹⁴ At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

Ruth 1:9-14 (NIV)

- Natural Response to Pain:

- TEARS and a call to return to SECURITY.
- We have NEGATIVE thoughts.

"... No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord's hand has turned against me!"

Ruth 1:13 (NIV)

3. There is a SUPERNATURAL response to pain.

At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.¹⁵ "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her."¹⁶ But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me."¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

Ruth 1:14-18 (NIV)

- A Supernatural Response:

- Take your PAIN and look for the PURPOSE.